

I find Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election a crass violation, if not of law, at least of the public trust and the public's expectation of impartial and unbiased behavior on the part of a broadcast entity.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. The so-called documentary which Sinclair is proposing to broadcast is not "news." It is a biased, partisan smear attack directed against one of the presidential candidates. The broadcast of this piece is not in the public interest, it is solely in the interest of the partisans trying to re-elect President Bush not by openly debating the issues on their merit but, in this case, by misusing the public airwaves to try to slander one of the candidates.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. I hope the FCC will act quickly and forcefully to stop this free political advertising for the Bush campaign under the false designation of "news"

Thank you.

Verna Schuetz